

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:00 p.m. – Executive Session

6:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m. - Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma, Vice-Chairman

Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky

William O’Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Each department will present their goals and needs. The entire School Committee will be involved in the budget process, not just the Budget Subcommittee. It was suggested that the committee look at what has been cut in previous year and see what the results have been.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 1:30 p.m. There will be presentations by Building Principals regarding staffing needs, enrollment, goals, and challenges. There will also be central office presentations regarding Technology, Facilities, Business, and Academic.

The Budget Goals will be adopted tonight.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:59 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Andy Longo, Michael Mancieri, Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To move Proclamations, M.H.S. Alumni Update, and Safety Advisory Committee report on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

***Middletown Varsity Football and Girls' Soccer State Championships - In recognition of the Boys' Varsity Football Team and the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team winning the Rhode Island Division III State Championships, the Middletown School**

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Committee is donating \$10 per student/athlete towards the purchase of championship jackets. A letter was sent to each athlete informing them of the donation from the School Committee. Shannon Farrell accepted this donation on behalf of the Boosters.

•M.H.S. Alumni Association Update – John Thompson and Marilyn Hennessey, members of the Class of 1963, the first graduating class at Middletown High School, updated the School Committee on the formation of the Alumni Association. Faculty members and parents of Middletown High School students can be part of the Alumni Association. The focus of the association will be to provide a senior scholarship and support other areas where funding is needed. The group has applied for tax exempt status. A website will be developed.

NEW BUSINESS

•Safety Advisory Committee Report – At its January 8, 2013 meeting, the Committee developed the following preliminary recommendations:

- Increase a combination of staff to address the overall safety needs of students.**
- Go back to building constituents and engage all in focus group questions. This would include Principals, teachers (including guidance counselors), students, parents, and before/after school program.**
- Review facility needs.**
- Review safety issues and protocols with students, staff, and parents.**
- Explore resources (grants) to support ideas.**

Members of the Safety Advisory Committee recommended more SRO's along with the need for more mental health professionals. These are preliminary recommendations. Focus groups need to be developed and information brought back to the School Committee at a later meeting.

There was discussion about facility needs. Everyone needs to be aware of the safety protocols that are now in place. We need to be aware of funds available, as well as grant opportunities. We could

possibly collaborate with other districts on the island.

Mrs. Kraeger said that the Safety Plans have been submitted to the R.I. Department of Education, which could bring about Statewide safety regulations. As the budget is prepared, we need to take a look at the recommendations. A SRO would have to be planned for in the Town budget. Committee members were concerned about sustainability.

A short recess was taken.

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Middletown High School Program of Studies”

Middletown High School Principal Gail Abromitis and Assistant Principal Andrew Longo reported on the updates to the Program of Studies. All changes in courses have been aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Science – New classes are Meteorology and Oceanography (½ year), Earth and Space Science (½ year), and Science Processes, which is a course focused on intervention. The full year course GeoSpace has been eliminated.

Physical Education – New classes are Health II for grades 11 & 12 (½ year) and Life Fitness (½ year). Health Care Science and Health Care Science Elective have been eliminated.

English – American Studies (English 11) and Creative Writing II (½ year) have been added.

Social Studies – The Social Studies curriculum is currently being developed and realigned. Additions in the schedule include American Studies (Grade 11) and Contemporary World Issues (Grade 10-12, ½ year).

Unified Arts (Applied Arts & Computer Technology) – Additions include Design and Redesign Your World and Video Game Design and Development II. Video Game Design and Development I have been very successful. It was suggested that there be a showcase night for video game design, similar to the district art show.

Unified Arts (World Language) - Spanish Conversation and Culture (½ year) has been added. This covers grammar and vocabulary and is for students with no prior knowledge of Spanish.

Unified Arts (Visual Arts) – The curriculum was reviewed this year. There were changes in course names only.

Unified Arts (Career Education) – The following courses were changed to semesters: Accounting I, Accounting II, Marketing I, Marketing II, You and the Law I, and You and the Law II.

Capstone Project – The Capstone is split between the junior and senior year. It was decided to move the Capstone to the senior year. CCSS is more rigorous and provides opportunities for mentorships in the senior year that could lead to internships. Interventions need to

be developed so that all students are successful. Recommendations are to organize a Capstone Board that students would go before when they do not meet the deadline and to create support such as a Capstone Advisory, Special Education Advisory, February and April Vacation Supports, and Afterschool supports. Creating an alternate way a student could complete the Capstone earlier than their senior year would be helpful.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for January 17, 2013.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

Donations

- Updated list of School Committee Meetings
- Minutes of Foods and Nutrition Committee Meeting
- Index of School Nutrition
- NAFIS Newsletter
- New Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing Career and

Technical Education in Rhode Island. If the Vocational Technical program at Rogers High School does not offer a program, a student can go to another program in the state. There is a phase-in in terms of finance.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for January 17, 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the consent agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2012 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Minutes of January 2, 2013 Budget Workshop**
- Approval of the following vouchers:**

Voucher Number Voucher Date Voucher Amount

1212 12/3/2012 \$22,115.94

1208 12/3/2012 \$328,303.19

1186 12/13/2012 \$2,175.16

1189 12/17/2012 \$2,407.50

1188 12/17/2012 \$2,135.60

1187	12/17/2012	\$16,026.59
1190	12/18/2012	\$8,900.00
1193	12/20/2012	\$770.00
1192	12/20/2012	\$181,319.58
1191	12/20/2012	\$146,077.08
1197	12/27/2012	\$474,843.28
1196	12/27/2012	\$55,393.25
1195	12/27/2012	\$1,390.40
1194	12/27/2012	\$5,990.13
1204	1/3/2013	\$1,946.75
1209	1/8/2013	\$90,555.32
1207	1/8/2013	\$710.00
1206	1/8/2013	\$630.20
1205	1/8/2013	\$33,979.10
1213	1/9/2013	\$2,301.00
1211	1/9/2013	\$14,352.56
1210	1/9/2013	\$638.00
1214	1/10/2013	\$3,739.59

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT AS OF JANUARY 2, 2013

Sara Topazio

3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

APPOINTMENT AS OF JANUARY 22, 2013

Joquan Chambers

Part-Time Custodian, Facilities Management Department

Kayla Parker

After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School

Sarah Topazio

After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School

Nadira Ferreira

4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION AS OF JANUARY 8, 2013

Michael Johnson

Custodian, Facilities Management Department

RESIGNATION AS OF JANUARY 14, 2013

Vernon S. Lawrence, Jr. Assistant Varsity Hockey Coach

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS AS OF NOVEMBER 26, 2012

Benjamin Welch

Assistant Varsity Hockey Coach

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Mary Alice Chrabascz

Grade Three, Aquidneck School

From January 22, 2013 for approximately six weeks.

MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)

Elizabeth Fenster

Grade Four, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy

From approximately February 25, 2013 to April 22, 2013.

MEDICAL LEAVE

Deborah Barrett

Accounting Manager

From October 24, 2012 to March 1, 2013.

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ACTION ITEMS

ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School

Committee award the Elevator Maintenance Bid Award to Kone Elevator. Unanimous vote.

ADOPT BUDGET GOALS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee adopt the Budget Goals for 2013-2014.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the motion, as amended.

- Move the first Budget Goal bullet to the end.**
- Change the second bullet to, “To use our community fiscal resources wisely, purposefully, and responsibly to maintain and enhance a high quality education for all students.”**

YEA:

Theresa Spengler

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

NAY: Paul Mankofsky

ABSTAIN: William O'Connell

OLD BUSINESS

•**BUDGET TIMELINE** – There will be one Budget Workshop per week until the budget is adopted. The budget is due to the Town on February 28th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – The Fine Arts Curriculum is complete and will be approved next month. NECAP State Assessment results will be released on February 8th.

•**FINANCIAL** – Ms. Pellerin will follow up with the R.I. Department of Education Finance Department regarding State Aid. There is a \$60K reduction in group home aid. Charter School reduction is not in the Governor's budget.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that we have locked in the electric rate. The grounds crews are painting the inside of Middletown High School. Work is continuing with the work order system.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. Mankofsky said there is a proposal for grant money for the MIT laboratory. The Van Buren Foundation was suggested.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 9:23 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk